





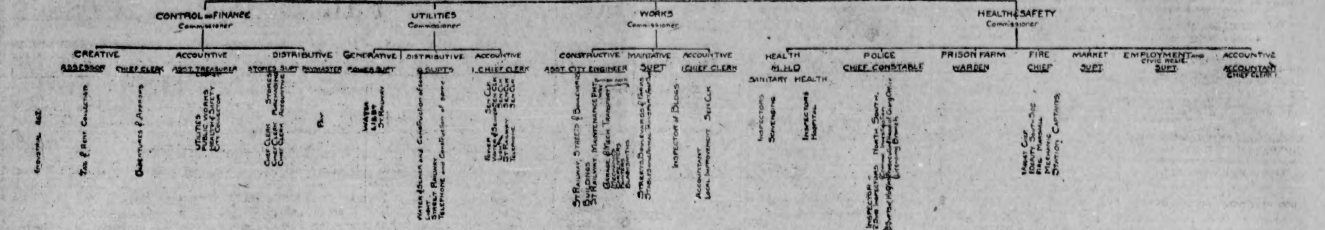








# Edmonton Citizen Submits Alternative Scheme for Reorganization of the Civic Administration



**H**ERE is another scheme of civic reorganization worked out by one of the public spirited citizens of Edmonton. The following letter to the Bulletin explains its chief characteristics.

**Editor The Bulletin:**

"This plan has been drawn up without consultation with or advice from anyone, and is not by a civic employee—it, therefore, does not profess to be very far down the departmental ladder. It is in opposition to the 'Barnes' scheme. It furthers the latter and its designer puts it forward as an alternative which would:

- (1) Fix responsibility.
- (2) Be more likely to obtain efficiency.
- (3) Be less likely to create internal friction.
- (4) And generally to be a sounder organization from the public point of view and more easily directed from an administrative point of view.

"This scheme facilitates the employing of practical men at the practical part of their work and should save them more time for it, the greater part of accounting being controlled more directly under the commissioner responsible—for instance, the power superintendent will be dealing almost altogether with power and the water works superintendent, with water mains and sewers, etc.—if there is no water in them the commissioner is responsible and he will get together and consult as to the effectual remedy if it is not the direct fault of either superintendent."

"The appointment of control or finance commissioners is not a new thing and cannot be omitted from the scheme."

"If only three commissioners are appointed then the works commissioner's department must be absorbed by the utilities department or health department or both."

"The three chief things which are lacking in the present civic organization are:

- (1) Fixing of responsibility.
- (2) Fixing of commission.
- (3) Cohesion.

Yours truly, C. W. BARNES."

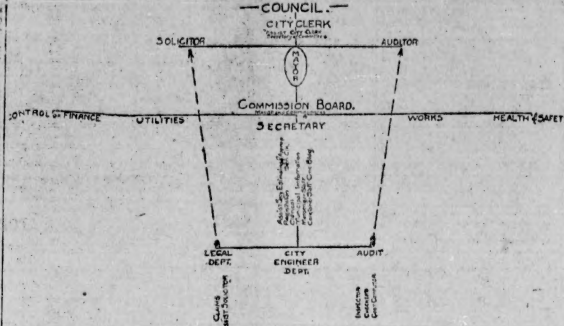
Edmonton, Sept. 8.

A brief analysis of the chief points of soundness and of difference between the scheme presented here and the Barnes scheme, which it is before the city council, may prove of interest.

**Points of Similarity.**

The chief points of similarity are these: The division of practically the entire administrative portion of the civic organization among four commissioners—Finance, utilities, public works and health and safety. While the division of organization proposed by Mr. Barnes does not forego the finance commissioner as distinct from the other three, still Mr. Barnes in his accompanying letter of explanation to the council and commissioners, he in reality puts plans before, not the same ideas, namely that the auditor must be absolutely independent of the commissioners and then that the legal and departmental heads must be advisory and consultative in their relation to all the various departments of the organization.

The great difference in the fundamental ideas of the two plans, comes in the division under each commissioner. Mr. Barnes has worked out his plan with the intended object of vesting each individual superintendent responsible for everything in his department, from construction and creation to final distribution of the finished product, whatever it may be.



The lower cut shows the organization from the council down to the commission board composed of four commissioners. The long cut shows the details of the division of the civic administration under the four commissioners.

distribution and accounting; while on the other hand, 'Civic' takes the construction work from such departments and puts them under the general direction of the commissioner of public works instead of the commissioner of utilities. 'Civic' then makes an assistant city engineer take charge of all construction work in the city as matter of what sort or for what department. 'Civic' explained to the Bulletin that the work of the assistant engineer would be to do all construction work in the city wherever required at need. The cost of this would be charged up in the proper way by the accounting out of the treasurer's department, under the commissioner of finance. 'Civic' work treasurer is omitted from the sketch. It should appear just under the finance commissioner. In the Barnes plan, a possible construction department is shown, but it is understood that this department must render on all work required by any other department, and take just the same relation as any independent contractor.

**Power Requirement Rationed.**

Another very distinct difference in the plan is shown in the relation of the power department. Under the Barnes scheme, the power plant became a part of the electric light and power department. 'Civic' makes it the creative part of the general 'utilities' division. 'Civic' explains that the utilities department, commissioners would see that the power plant did not overcharge any branch, as all the users of electrical energy are under him. The power superintendent would not have to consider the cost of power to any branch. He would be concerned only with the best supply at all times at the best prices compatible with his equipment, says Civic.

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**CAR CREW STILL UNABLE TO TELL OF COLLISION**

No Explanation Given as Yet of Friday's Street Car and Train Collision

**SUPT. WOODROOFE SEES MEN ON HOSPITAL COTS**

Are Still Too Ill to Tell Connected Story—Wreck Victims Are Resting Easily

Superintendent Woodroffe of the street railway department announced Saturday that little news had been learned as to the causes of Friday afternoon's collision between a street car and a G.P.F. freight train at the Alberta avenue crossing near the exhibition grounds, and in which five persons were more or less seriously injured.

Mr. Woodroffe paid a visit to the Royal Alexandra hospital Saturday to see Motorman Pascoe and Conductor Woodroffe.

"The men are still so shaken up and suffering from their experiences on Friday that it was impossible to get any sort of connected story from them as to just what actually did happen," said the superintendent. "As soon as the men are sufficiently recovered to tell about the matter, I shall hold an investigation into the cause of the accident."

It was reported at the hospital yesterday that all the injured were recovering rapidly. "As soon as the men are sufficiently recovered to tell about the matter, I shall hold an investigation into the cause of the accident."

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**DAVIS LIKELY TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF**

Chief Carpenter was asked Saturday morning if there was any foundation for the report of the story from Toronto to the effect that chief of Police Davis of Leithbridge was to come here as deputy chief.

"I have not heard from the commissioners to that effect yet," he replied.

When told that both Mayor Short and Commissioner Harrison had been questioned in regard to the matter, and had professed ignorance of any offer made to Mr. Davis, and further that Mayor Short had stated that the appointment of a deputy chief was quite within the powers of the police chief and did not have to be done by the police commissioners, Chief Carpenter said that there was a good possibility of Mr. Davis coming to Edmonton, but that nothing had been settled yet.

"Mr. Davis would be a very valuable addition to the force here," said the chief. "He is a capable officer, a man of experience and of the best character. I would like very much to secure his services."

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